



Indiana Historical Bureau

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NEWS

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“Adrian A. Parsons, Indiana’s Soybean Pioneer” Indiana State Historical Marker Will Be Dedicated in Avon, Indiana

A public dedication ceremony for an Indiana state historical marker commemorating Indiana soybean pioneer Adrian A. Parsons, is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2017. The marker dedication will begin at 2:00 p.m. at the southwest corner of the intersection of County Road 150 S and County Road 625 E in Avon, Indiana 46123, near the farm where Parsons cultivated soybeans from the 1890s through the 1920s. Parking for the event will be available along Whispering Pines Blvd. and along other streets in the Whispering Pine housing development.

The text follows for the state marker entitled “**Adrian A. Parsons, 1846-1929**”:

A Civil War veteran, Parsons engaged in diversified farming near here in 1884. In 1890s, he began purposeful, sustained cultivation of soybeans used for forage and fertilizer on his farm. Soybeans were not widely grown in U.S. agriculture until 1930s. He originated Mikado variety in 1905. He boosted yields by inoculating seed with nitrogen fixing bacteria in soil. In 1928, the American Soybean Association recognized Parsons as “the pioneer of all soybean growers in Indiana.” He demonstrated the crop’s practical utility for average farms and advanced its importance. When Parsons died in 1929, Indiana farmers planted 326,000 acres of soybeans. By 1939, over 1.3 million acres were planted, ranking Indiana second in nation.

The public is invited to attend the dedication ceremony for this Indiana state historical marker that celebrates Parsons’ contributions to Indiana’s agricultural and economic history. Soybeans are native to Asia, and by the late 1800s were still relatively unfamiliar to most farmers in the United States. Parsons began cultivating the legume by the 1890s and was an early and persistent advocate of the crop’s utility.

State historical markers commemorate significant individuals, organizations, places, and events in Indiana history. These markers help communities throughout the state promote, preserve, and present their history for the education and enjoyment of residents and tourists of all ages. For over 100 years the Indiana Historical Bureau, an agency of the State of Indiana, has been marking Indiana history. Since 1946, the marker format has been the large roadside marker, which has the familiar dark blue background with gold lettering and the outline of the state of Indiana at the top. Over 600 of these markers have been installed over the years.

For more information about the Indiana Historical Marker Program and other resources about Indiana, visit the Indiana Historical Bureau’s website at <http://www.IN.gov/history> or call (317) 232-2535. For more information about the marker dedication ceremony commemorating Adrian A. Parsons, please contact Lee Parsons at lee_parsons@sbcglobal.net.

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